TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has propose that Vishakapatnam would be a suitable site for the establishment of an Institute of Marine Technology. He has also suggested that as a first step, a Cell on Marine Technology may be created at the existing Regional Centre of the National Institute of Oceanography.

There is no provision for such an Institute or Cell in the outlay for the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Agreement with Arianespace for launching of INSAT-1C

1539. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1986 and state:

(a) whether an agreement with Arianespace for launching of INSAT-IC has been signed; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the names of the countries which have space shuttle (STS) launch services and on which India can rely for its future launches of space vehicles and

(c) whether Government suspect any deliberate effort on the part of some countries to delay our space programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Launch Services Agreement signed between Department of Space and Arianespace on 26-7-1986 for the launch of INSAT-IC provides for a shared launch of INSAT-IC on an Ariane—3|4 launcher in January-February 1988 launch period. However, efforts will continue to advance the launch to the second half of 1987. The launch will be from Kourou, French Guiana by an Ariane Launcher. The fixed price for Ariane 'Standard Services' (in January 1988 economic conditions) is estimated as under US $ 33.4 Million and the 'Associated Services' for a 1988 launch are estimated as under French Francs 5.9 Million.

(b) Space Shuttle (STS) launch services are offered by USA only.

(c) No, Sir.

Development of detection and Decontamination equipment

1540. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 17th July, 1986 under the caption 'Chemical weapons' if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are taking any steps to develop detection and decontamination equipment; and

(c) if so, what other steps Government are taking to face any such eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the article published in the newspaper. Studies on detection of poisenous chemicals have been carried out. Our efforts are restricted to the development of defensive measures against chemical warfare agents. India is a signatory 1925 Geneva Protocol and we abide by it.

Reluctance of States to provide land for ranges

1541. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have of late been increasingly showing

reluctance to provide field firing ranges for practice by the troops and unwillingness to renew lease for ranges or to provide new ranges; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) In respect of a few notified field firing ranges, some State Governments have shown reluctance to further extend notification.

(b) wherever necessary alternate sites for firing ranges are being identified and acquired in consultation with the State Governments.

Plant for manufacture of N-15

1542. SMT. KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first plant to manufacture N-15 a rare isotope of nitrogen has recently been set up; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A plant to produce N-15 has recently been set up by M/s. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd., Bombay based on the technical know-how supplied by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The process is based on chemical exchange of nitrogen isotopes between nitric acid and nitrogen oxide. N-15 is useful in Agricultural research to study the uptake of fertilisers by plants.

Seizure of Charas by Crime Branch of Delhi Police

1543. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a record seizure of 908 kilograms of Charas valued at Rs. 2 crores in the international market was made in Delhi by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details of the persons apprehended and the circumstances of the seizure; and

(c) whether the seizure has led to unearthing of an organised gang of smugglers and narcotic traffickers, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 5.7.1986, a team of Crime Branch detectives intercepted a truck No. HYN-4555 near Vijay Ghat. Taking advantage of the rush in traffic, its driver Rattan Singh succeeded in escaping but the other occupant of the truck named Jagtar Singh was apprehended. A careful search revealed a cavity in the body of the truck from where 302 Kgs. of Charas in 47 packets of 5-1|4 Kg. and 21 packets of 2-1|2 Kg. were seized.

(c) During interrogation, it was found that Jagtar Singh had connections with a notorious drug smuggler of Punjab. The case is under investigation.